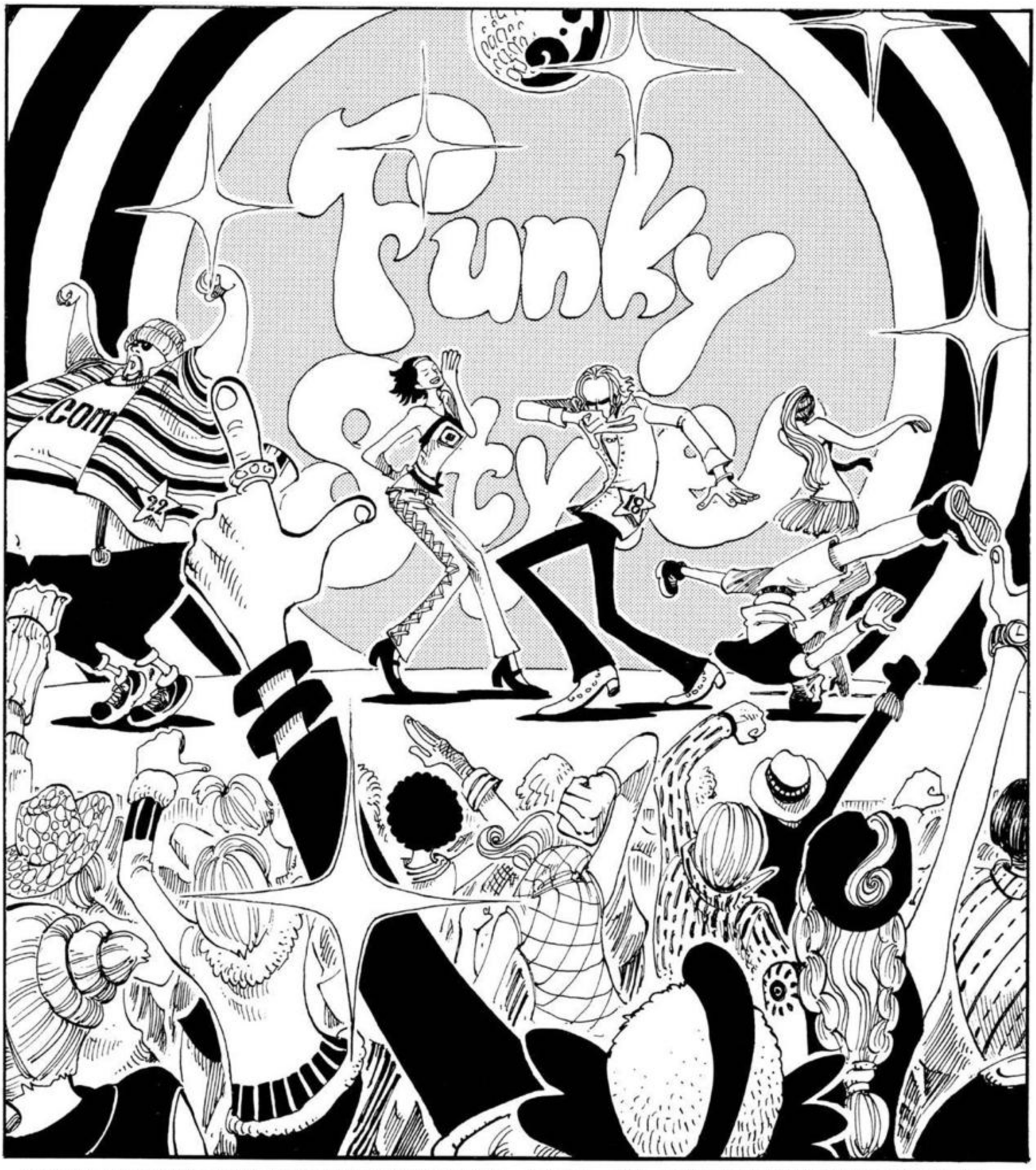
Chapter 142:
SKULL AND CHERRY BLOSSOMS



DJANGO'S DANCE PARADISE, VOL. 13: "AN UNEXPECTED APPEARANCE IN THE DANCE CONTEST"

SHWOOO...

...!!

I THOUGHT IF I SPOKE, YOU WOULDN'T LIKE ME.

YOU CAN TALK!!? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS!!?

!

I CAN TALK TOO, AND MUCH MORE ELOQUENTLY THAN YOU.

SO WHAT IF YOU CAN TALK, CHOPPER? THAT'S NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT.

WHEN I SPOKE TO THE OTHER HUMANS, THEY SHOT AT ME...

BECAUSE IT'S WEIRD FOR REINDEERS TO TALK.

...

...!!

!!

IT'S GONNA EXPLODE !!!

KA-BOOM!!!

...?

RUN, CHOP-PER!!

WHA--!?

HUH!?

THUMP

THUMP

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

KLONK!!

PHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE. FAILED AGAIN!!

!

WHY DO YOU CALL ME CHOPPER?

HEE HEE HEE HEE!!

...

KLONK!!

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!!

TONK!

HEH HEH... WELL, YOU'VE BEEN ALL RIGHT FROM THE VERY START.

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!!

CHOP-PER!!

GIGGLE

THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO CALL YOU!!

IT'S A FINE NAME.

YOU'RE A *TONAKAI*, A REINDEER. AND YOU'VE GOT FINE ANTLERS. THEY LOOK LIKE THEY COULD CHOP DOWN TREES.

TONY TONY CHOPPER.

...

URUM..

NOW WHAT EDICT SHALL I ISSUE TODAY !!?

URUM...

BWAH HA HA HA HA!!

WHRR WHRR

WHRR WHRR

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGELY EVER SINCE THE WORLD COUNCIL.

...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DALTON?

THE PEOPLE AND THEIR RULER GROW FARTHER APART WITH EACH PASSING DAY.

WILL THIS COUNTRY EVER BE THE DRUM KINGDOM IT USED TO BE?

DALTON
CAPTAIN OF SECURITY, DRUM KINGDOM

CHESS, KURO-MARIMO ...

THIS IS HOW KINGDOMS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE RUN.

CHESS
DRUM KINGDOM COUNCILOR

DRINK! COME ON, DRINK!

YOU THINK TOO MUCH!

KUROMARIMO
BAILIFF, DRUM KINGDOM

WITHOUT STRONG LEADERSHIP, THIS LAND WOULD FALL INTO CHAOS...

...AND ITS PEOPLE WOULD DIE LIKE FLIES.

KING WAPOL JUST HAS DIFFERENT WAYS OF DOING THINGS THAN THE OLD KING.

...I MET A YOUNG GIRL.

WHEN I ACCOMPANIED KING WAPOL TO THE RECENT WORLD COUNCIL...

IRON FIST...

BY RULING WITH AN IRON FIST, KING WAPOL IS PROTECTING EVERYONE.

THAT'S RIGHT!! NOW DRINK!!

IN FIVE OR SIX YEARS, HE'LL BE...

...A FORMIDABLE ENEMY OF THE WORLD GOVERNMENT.

...IS SPREADING HIS DANGEROUS IDEAS.

THE REVOLUTIONARY NAMED DRAGON ...

THE HOLY LAND OF MARE-JOIS

IF YOU WANT TO CATCH HIM, DO IT YOURSELVES.

COUNT ME OUT OF THIS.

WAPOL
RULER OF DRUM KINGDOM

DRUM KINGDOM WOULD NEVER SUCCUMB TO SOME TWO-BIT REVOLUTIONARY!!

HMPH!! RIDICULOUS!! THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY KINGDOM!!

GRR... NEFELTARI COBRA!!!

GRAAH !!!

FWUMP!!

WHAT DID YOU THINK THE PURPOSE OF THIS COUNCIL WAS!?

WHAP!!

WAPOL!! YOU SHORT-SIGHTED FOOL!!!

NEFELTARI COBRA
RULER OF ALABASTA

AGH!!

THW

AK!!

OOPS!!! MY HAND SLIPPED !!!

HMPH!! THAT COUNCIL WAS A WASTE OF TIME!!

HUH? WHAT'S THAT?

YACK YACK

PRINCESS VIVI !!

WHY... HOW DARE YOU!!?

WUZZ

WUZZ!

BWAH HA HA! I'M SO SORRY. AREN'T YOU THE PRINCESS OF ALABASTA?

HOW UNFORTUNATE YOU ARE TO BE THE DAUGHTER OF THAT WORTHLESS FOOL.

YOUR MAJESTY !!?

SORRY I BUMPED INTO YOU.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

NO, IGARAM!!

KNOWING THAT, SHE CONTROLLED HER ANGER. SUCH POLITICAL SHREWDNESS IS SURPRISING IN ONE SO YOUNG. I'M HUMBLED.

WHAT AN AMAZING GIRL!! AT A COUNCIL OF WORLD LEADERS SUCH AS THAT, THE SLIGHTEST PROVOCATION COULD START A WAR.

...!!

...!!

HUH !?

!!

YOU WERE MAGNIFICENT, PRINCESS VIVI!!

WAAAH !!

WAAAAAAH

SORRY.

...

HA!! IRRITATING BRAT!! COME, DALTON!!

TOMP TOMP

...

TMP TMP TMP!

POLITICS IS ABOUT POWER, NOT FEELINGS!

YOU CALL THAT POLITICS!? WAKE UP, DALTON!!

HE'S RIGHT. POWER AND ORDER ARE ALL THAT MATTER. NOW, LET'S DRINK!

IN ALABASTA, A CHILD OF 10 PUTS THE WELFARE OF HER COUNTRY ABOVE HER OWN FEELINGS.

READ THIS WAY

BUT DON'T BLAME ALL HUMANS.

!

LIFE'S HARD FOR OUTCASTS LIKE US.

POOF..

NOW WE'RE BOTH HUNTED FUGITIVES.

ITS PEOPLE AND ITS GOVERNMENT ...

THIS COUNTRY IS SICK RIGHT NOW.

PEOPLE MAY SAY THAT THERE'S NO CURE FOR A SICK COUNTRY, BUT THEY'RE WRONG.

...AND THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE ARE SICK.

LISTEN, CHOPPER ...

THERE'S A STORY THAT GOES LIKE THIS. IN A FARAWAY LAND IN THE WEST, THERE WAS A GREAT ROBBER.

BUT HE HAD A SERIOUS HEART PROBLEM. FORTUNATELY FOR HIM...

...HE WAS RICH, SO HE SOUGHT OUT FAMOUS PHYSICIANS FOR TREATMENT.

BUT NONE OF THEM COULD CURE HIS DISEASE. IT WAS INCURABLE.

HE NEARLY WENT MAD WHEN HE LEARNED THAT HE WAS GOING TO DIE, BUT HE PASSED A MOUNTAIN...

...WHERE HE SAW A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT THAT TOOK HIS BREATH AWAY. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT WAS?

CHERRY BLOS-SOMS!

HE SAW A MOUNTAIN COVERED WITH BEAUTIFUL CHERRY BLOS-SOMS!!!

READ THIS WAY

SO HE WENT TO SEE ANOTHER DOCTOR, AND TO HIS UTTER SURPRISE, THE DOCTOR SAID...

"YOU'RE IN PERFECT HEALTH."

HE WAS CURED !!

IT WAS A MIRACLE !!!

IT HAD TO BE A MIRACLE, RIGHT!?

BUT IT WAS NO MIRACLE!! THIS WAS A NEW PRINCIPLE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE! A POWERFUL EMOTION HAD TRIGGERED A CHANGE IN THE MAN'S BODY.

HE'D BEEN TOLD HIS DISEASE WAS INCURABLE, YET HE'D BEEN CURED. AMAZING, RIGHT!?

THAT MEANS THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS AN INCURABLE DISEASE!!

NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS, I WILL BE THE DOCTOR THAT SAVES THIS COUNTRY!!

...!!

AP!!

FW

WHAP!!

THAT'S WHY I'M HOISTING THE SKULL AND CROSSBONES AGAINST EVERY DISEASE THERE IS!!!

IT'S THE SYMBOL OF FAITH!

THWAP!!

YES! THIS FLAG REJECTS IMPOSSIBILITIES!

SKULL AND CROSS-BONES?

I'LL HOIST THIS FLAG AND FIGHT LIKE A PIRATE!!

...SET SAIL ONE DAY AND DISCOVER JUST HOW SMALL YOUR PROBLEMS REALLY ARE!!

WHY, THE SEAS ARE FILLED WITH PIRATES! YOU MUST...

WHAT'S A PIRATE!?

NO!! IT'S EVEN SMALLER THAN THAT!! IT'S LIKE THIS!!

REALLY!?

GWKK!!

REALLY!?

REALLY!!

INDEED.

NOD...

GWK

REALLY?

THIS ISLAND IS BUT A TINY SPECK IN A WORLD BEYOND IMAGINING!!

THAT'S UP TO THE WOUND.

IT WON'T OPEN UP.

YOU'RE INJURED. WHAT IF YOUR WOUND OPENS UP AGAIN?

CHOPPER, GO BACK HOME AND TAKE A NAP.

KRUNCH...

KRUNCH...

KRUNCH KRUNCH KRUNCH

SOMEONE HAS SUDDENLY GOTTEN SICK IN ROBELLU. I MUST GO AND SAVE HIM.

SUIT YOUR-SELF.

...

HEE HEE HEE...

I'LL HELP YOU.

...AND IT MAY OR MAY NOT BE EFFECTIVE AGAINST ALL SORTS OF ILLNESSES.

YEAH. THERE'S SOME MUSHROOM THAT GROWS ONLY ON THIS ISLAND...

HMM...

MUSH-ROOMS ?

WELL, THE TWENTY DOCTORS SENT SOME OF US TO PICK MUSHROOMS.

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY THE POOR TURNOUT IN THE SECURITY FORCE LATELY?

MY PATIENT IS WAITING.

SMIRK...

COME, CHOP-PER!!

THIS IS GOOD. IT'LL MAKE MY WORK A LOT EASIER.

MUSH-ROOM ?

EEK! I REALLY THOUGHT LIZARD EYEBALLS WOULD WORK!!

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

BLAM BLAM!!

GET LOST, YOU QUACK !!!

HIRILUK ROBBED ME!!!

DON'T BE SO CHEAP!! YOU RICH FOOL!!

HUFF HUFF

THE SECU-RITY FORCE !!!

BLAM BLAM!!

...!!

GOOD LUCK !!!

THWAK

YACK YACK YACK

YOWW!

WHAT'S THAT?

CHOPPER, WE'LL HAVE TO USE THE "DECOY STRATEGY" !!!

DON'T CALL ME BLUE-NOSED !!!

YOU BLUE-NOSED FOOL.

GO AHEAD AND DIE. YOU ALMOST KICKED THE BUCKET ONCE ALREADY...

BAM

WHAM

BAM

WHAM!!

WHAT KIND OF A DOCTOR DOES THAT TO HIS PATIENTS!!?

IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT!! YOU TAGGED ALONG AFTER I TOLD YOU NOT TO!!!

I COULD'VE BEEN KILLED!!!

SWUMP...

THAT WAS MY FIRST FIGHT.

HUH?

WEEN WEEN WEEN

HUFF HUFF HUFF

DANGR

DOCTOR ...

HEY!! NO FAIR TURN-ING INTO A GIANT !!!

I'M NOT CRYING !!!

WHAM!!

WHAT? ARE YOU GOING TO CRY, YOU FOOL REINDEER?

HEE HEE HEE

QUIVER

!

!

HERE'S A PRESENT...

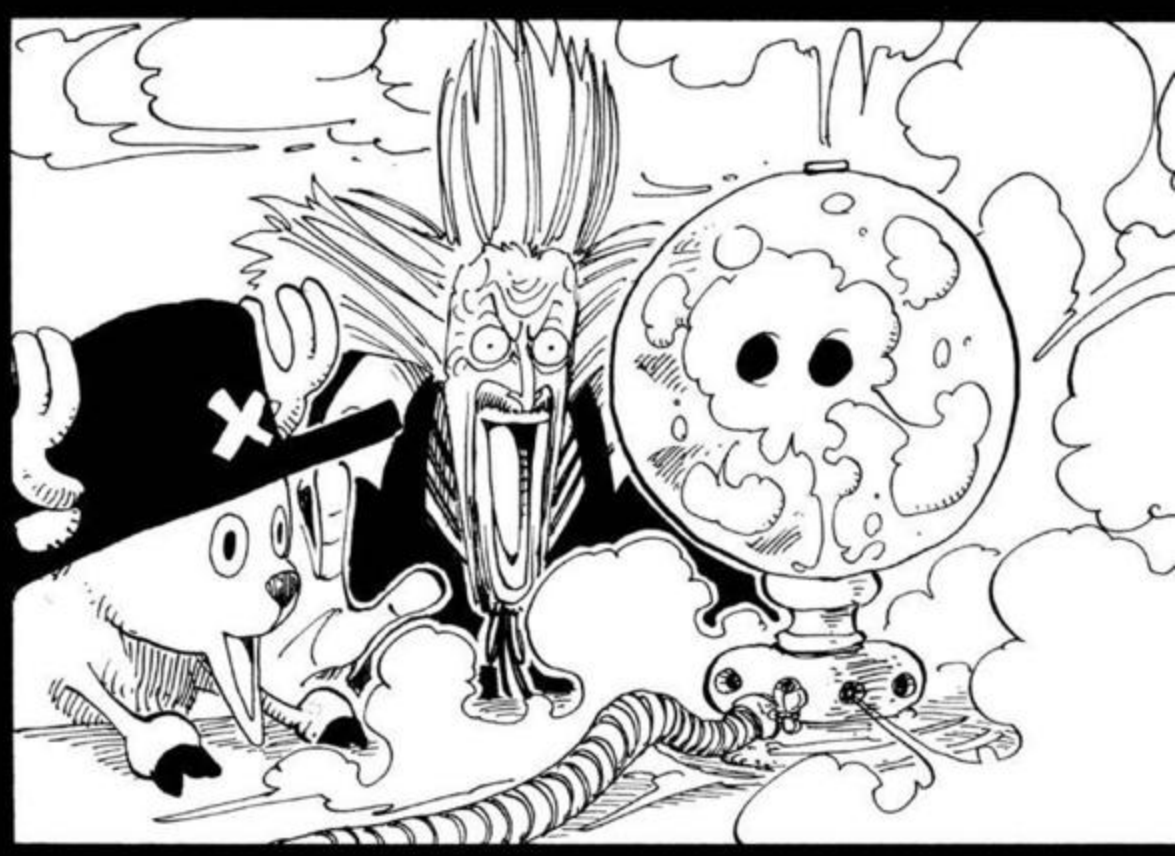
WHUP...

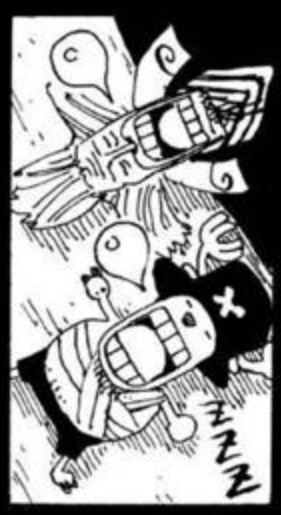
A PEACE OFFERING.

HEE HEE HEE! NO WONDER. YOU NEED A PARTNER TO FIGHT.

FWIK

THEN THIS MUST BE A FIRST, TOO.





ONE YEAR LATER ...

A WHOLE YEAR..

YOUR TREATMENT IS FINALLY COMPLETE...

... CHOPPER.

THANK YOU, DOCTOR.

SRIP

DANGER

WELL, TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF.

CONGRATU-LATIONS, YOU'RE FREE TO GO.

HUH?

YOUR WOUNDS HAVE COMPLETELY HEALED!!

DO I STILL HAVE TO LOOK AFTER YOU?

FROM NOW ON, YOU CAN LIVE YOUR LIFE ANY WAY YOU WANT.

NOW GO. I HAVE WORK TO DO.

...?

DOCTOR!!! I'LL MASSAGE YOUR SHOULDERS EVERY DAY!!! I'LL MAKE YOUR TEA!!! I'LL CLEAN YOUR HOUSE!!! PLEASE!! LET ME IN!!!

GULP

HICCUP

I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS!!! I DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO!!! DOCTOR!!!

I WON'T BE ANY TROUBLE TO YOU!! PLEASE LET ME IN!!!

SNIFF

DOCTOR!!!

BLAM!!

!?

DOCTOR!!

SHWOOO...

...

DOCTOR !!!

I'M HURT!

LOOK, DOCTOR !!!

WHAM!

CHOPPER!?

BLA

M!!!

EEK!

!!?

BLAM!!

AND NEVER COME BACK !!!

BLAM!!

GO AWAY!!! GO TO THE SEA OR SOME-THING !!!

WHY, DOCTOR!!!!

PLUP

FORGIVE ME, CHOPPER!!!!

WAAAAAAAAAH

SNIFF...

SIGH...

From Vol. 17 page 69 - Ed.